

# **WABASH RIVER HERITAGE CORRIDOR COMMISSION**

**Meeting Minutes – March 14, 2007**

**Teleconference Media Center, IGCS**

**402 W. Washington**

**Indianapolis, IN**

<b>Voting Members Present:</b> Adams County – John Freidt Allen County – Ron Zartman (alternate) Carroll County – George Mears Cass County – Mercedes Brugh DNR – Steve Morris (Director’s assignee) Knox County – Shane Cooper Miami County – Ken Einselen Posey County- Ralph Weinzapfel Sullivan County – John Gettinger Tippecanoe Co. – N. (Lucky) Neiburger Vigo County – Keith Ruble (alternate) Warren County – Louise Jewell		<b>Voting Members Absent w/o Proxy:</b> Gibson County Parke County Fountain County Jay County Vermillion County Wabash County Wells County (proxy invalid)
<b>Proxies</b> Huntington County - Mike Mettler to John Gettinger (President) Wells County – Keith Huffman to Mike Mettler (M. Mettler not present, proxy invalid)		<b>Non-Voting Members Not Present</b> DNR-Historic Preservation and Archeology IDEM INDOT Office of Tourism
<b>Non-Voting Members Present:</b>		<b>Guests:</b> Robert Carter-Director of DNR
<b>Commission and DNR Staff Present:</b> Ron James – WRHCC Executive Director Jennifer Hubbard – DNR Administration Pool		

## **CALL TO ORDER**

John Gettinger called the meeting to order at 1:14 p.m. John asked everyone to introduce themselves and the county they represent. Steve Morris made the new DNR Recreation and Fishing Guide available to all present. Ron James noted the Ohio River was covered in a section of the new guide and would like to see the Wabash River covered similarly in future in editions.

DNR Director, Robert Carter, stopped in during the meeting to introduce himself and answer questions. Ron James gave Mr. Carter and new commission members an introduction of The Wabash Heritage Corridor Commission by showing a short video and going over the History of the Wabash Heritage Corridor.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> MEETING MINUTES**

John Gettinger asked for approval of the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Keith Ruble made a motion to approve the minutes. Shane Cooper seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

John Gettinger distributed a report of his commission related activity since January. John pointed out that he attended a state house event at which the Nature Conservancy received \$300,000 targeted for the Wabash River, but he was disappointed that the Commission found out about the event by chance rather than being directly invited to participate. Steve Morris distributed copies of an article about the project.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ron James referred to his report that was sent as an attachment to the meeting agenda and noted a couple of meetings that were not attended due to weather and other concerns.

## **FINANCE REPORT** (see attached)

Steve Morris of DNR distributed a commission financial report showing the commission well under budget.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Water Trail**

Ron James reported the proofs for the maps #1 and #6 are out. Ron stated that PEN Enterprises are doing the printing of the maps. He also stated that PEN Enterprises are to produce the bridge signs, but the bid price is still pending.

### **Education**

Ron James announced that he presented the 'Bright White' Classroom program outline to the Environmental Educators Association, and they declined helping him with organizing the next stage of the effort. Ron stated that the next stage would be to recruit teachers to help with the production.

### **Banks of the Wabash**

John Gettinger announced that the Banks of the Wabash is behind schedule in getting a newsletter out. John reported that at the meeting with the Banks of the Wabash, there was discussion on how to finance people to get to the Indiana Rivers Rally, and discussion of awards that are given out. Ron James announced that the next meeting would be March 21st at the Depot in Peru.

### **Legislative**

Mercedes Brugh stated that when the budget went from the House to the Senate there was funding for commission operating expenses but there was no money in it for the Wabash River Heritage Corridor fund. Mercedes suggested commission members attempt to have Corridor funding inserted into the Senate version of the budget.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**River Odyssey** – The last show begins at Minnetrista Cultural Center in Muncie on 3/24.

### **Uniform Distribution**

Ron James distributed uniform shirts and announced that the cost was under \$500.00. Ralph Weinzapfel made a motion to release the embroidery logo to other vendors. Mercedes Brugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **WRHC Community & River Road signs**

Louise Jewell discussed the different types of logos that were used to represent the Wabash Heritage Corridor in the past. Ron James passed out examples of the past logos. Louise Jewell made a motion to approve the new isolated text logos for “River Road” and “Community” signs. Steve Morris seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **Indiana Rivers Rally 07**

Ron James announced the full Indiana Rivers Rally Registration will cost \$185. Scholarship applications for up to \$100 are available. Ron Zartman moved to send Ron James to Rivers Rally and spending \$185.00 for him to go. Lucky Neiburger seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Steve Morris moved to pay to send commission members and alternates to attend Rivers Rally. Lucky Neiburger seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **Indiana Trail Plan**

Louise Jewell announced that Ray Irvin was getting what he needs done and that the next phase of the trail plan (routing) is moving along well with the exception of the route departing the river in the reach from Terre Haute to Lafayette

### **Select representative for attendance at National River Rally, May 18-22**

Mercedes Brugh moved to send Louise Jewell to the National River Rally. Lucky Neiburger seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **Video of Wabash Heritage and sites of interest**

John Gettinger asked the members of each county to consider what should be included in five minutes of time for each county in a film about the Wabash River being a tourist attraction. Lucky Neiburger made a motion for John Gettinger to call WFYI to ask them to do another project pertaining to the Wabash River. Mercedes Brugh seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Mid-America Trails & Greenway Conference (MATAG)**

Steve Morris announced that he listed the Wabash Corridor as a supporting member of the MATAG conference. Steve stated that this is the third Mid-America conference and that there were eight states involved. Mercedes Brugh moved to spend \$1000 to sponsor the Mid-America conference.

### **Land Trust Alliance Midwest Conference**

Steve Morris discussed the Land Trust Alliance Midwest Conference. Lucky Neiburger moved to sponsor this conference at the \$1000 level which would allow an exhibit and two registrations. Louise Jewell seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **Executive Director Contract & Budget for '07/'08**

Ron James was asked if he was interested in renewing his contract for Executive Director services. Ron affirmed his interest. Ralph Wienzapfel made a motion to offer a contract extension at the same price as the previous year and Lucky Neiburger seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

### **Central Indiana Land Trust Inc. (CILTI) Art Opening/Presentation**

Ron James discussed the Art Opening at the Artsgarden. Ron announced that he placed an ad for the River Odyssey in a brochure for this CILTI event. Ron James and Steve Morris stated that they would attend the Art Opening.

### **CILTI Environment Roundtable with Orion Editors**

Louise Jewell volunteered herself and her husband to attend the Environment Roundtable with Orion Editors.

### **U.S. Geological Survey proposed river mapping**

Ron James announced that Lucky Neiburger and he will attend a meeting in Lafayette to get more information about what is involved in this mapping effort.

### **Select county representatives to write articles for next Reflections**

Ron James announced he is editing articles and would send the latest Reflections soon. Ron asked that John Friedt from Adams County, N. Sherrell Marginet from Gibson County, and Mike Mettler from Huntington County write articles for the next Reflections with those writings to be to him no later than May 4, 2007.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

George Mears announced an event in Carroll County over Father's Day weekend. The event will include a Wabash Water Trail opening on June 16<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Ralph Wienzapfel announced the PaddleFest is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mercedes Brugh requested a more user friendly financial report for the next meeting.

John Gettinger announced dates for the Merom Chautauqua. John also mentioned he would not be able to attend the May Commission meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

The next meeting will be held May 9, 2007, Multi-Purpose Room, Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market Street, Wabash, Indiana (Ernie Passwater, River Commissioner, to arrange).